

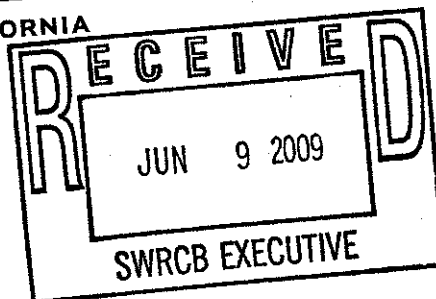


CLEAN WATER ACTION

CALIFORNIA

June 10, 2009

Charles Hoppin, Chair
State Water Quality Control Board
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Sacramento, CA 95814



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Re: Support for revised allocation of ARRA funds

Dear President Hoppin and Board members;

On behalf of Clean Water Action and its 60,000 California members, I am writing in support of the proposed amendment to Resolution 2009-0027 to clarify the expenditure of grant funds allocated by the board through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Given the limited grant capacity of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), we think that the following criteria should be used to determine allocation of funds;

- Threat to public health;
- Ability of grantee to access and/or repay a loan from the CWSRF.

We are very familiar with the extent of the need for grant funds to address critical wastewater projects in disadvantaged communities, and strongly supported the board's initial commitment to ensuring that at least 25 percent of the ARRA funding is set aside for grants to these communities.

We also support the current staff proposal to split the remaining \$42 million in available grant funding between urban stormwater projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, and wastewater projects for disadvantaged communities. As you well know, low-income communities find it virtually impossible to access the CWSRF, and many stormwater agencies also lack the revenue base to repay loans. This is a reasonable use of this fund, and once which we believe will result in projects that could not otherwise be built, and which will also produce needed jobs.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clary
Policy Analyst